



May 19, 2022

Eric Jazdyk
Eastern Region Parks Planner
Washington State Parks

Dear Mr. Jazdyk,

It is with sincere enthusiasm that I give our organization's endorsement to the Washington State Parks' application for funding from the RCO-administered WWRP State Parks Program for the acquisition of the Robinson Property, an inholding in the Little Spokane Natural Area.

As a regional land trust committed to connecting people to nature by conserving lands and waters essential to life in the Inland Northwest, we have long had a focus on the permanent protection of lands in the Little Spokane Watershed, and we have given specific attention and priority over the past ten years to the Robinson Property in particular. We have long endorsed the strategy that State Parks is the ideal long-term owner and manager of this unique property and are pleased to have participated in the shepherding of key relationships in support of this effort.

Based on our analysis, the Robinson Property is a valuable conservation project due to its proximity to other protected lands, its 940 feet of Little Spokane River shoreline, and its important habitat values. According to the Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the property is part of critical habitat for seven species of concern, including kokanee salmon, rainbow trout, and the Townshend's big-eared bat. Additionally, 122 species of birds have been seen on or near the property by local Audubon Society citizen scientists, indicating healthy habitat for resident and migratory birds and waterfowl. With the land in State Park ownership, these habitats could be carefully managed and enhanced to provide both substantial ecosystem benefits, and also new public access for the greater Spokane area.

Since our initial letter of support for this project in August of 2020, we have acquired the Waikiki Springs Nature Preserve which we are managing for improved habitat and responsible recreation. It is yet another piece of protected land along the Little Spokane River. Continuing to bring lands along the river under permanent protection is good for native species, community members, and the State Park, as this region continues to grow.

Thank you for this opportunity to voice our support for this exceptional WA State Parks' funding request, we look forward to celebrating your success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dave Schaub".

Dave Schaub, Executive Director
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